

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 129466

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, UN, SF, WA

SUBJECT: CONTACT GROUP PAPER ON SUBSTANTIVE PREPARATIONS
FOR SECOND ROUND OF TALKS ON NAMIBIA
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REF: USUN 1751

THE PAPER PREPARED BY CONTACT GROUP IN NEW YORK
(TEXT REFTEL) CONSTITUTES AN EXCELLENT BASIS FOR
RESUMPTION OF CAPE TOWN DISCUSSIONS. SUBJECT TO
MODIFICATIONS THAT FOLLOW, IT HAS OUR APPROVAL. WE

ASSUME THAT CONTACT GROUP WHEN IT CONVENES IN CAPE TOWN CAN BEST CONSIDER THESE MODIFICATIONS.

2. PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS FOLLOW:

A. WE PREFER THAT LAST TICK OF PART A (NATURE OF TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENT) READ AS FOLLOWS: "DURING THE TRANSITIONAL PERIOD, SOUTH AFRICA WILL BE CONSIDERED AS ULTIMATELY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ACTIONS OF THE TRANSITIONAL ADMINISTRATION." PRESENT WORDING CAN BE MISREAD TO SUGGEST THAT SOVEREIGNTY ULTIMATELY RESIDES IN SOUTH AFRICA.

B. IN PARA 3 OF SPECIFIC CONSIDERATIONS, "ONLY" SUGGESTS A VAGUELY RESTRICTIVE APPROACH TO REPEAL. WE SUGGEST "ONLY" BE DELETED.

C. PARA 9(A), THIRD SENTENCE SUGGESTS THAT THE CONTACT GROUP WILL PAY ATTENTION TO PERCENTAGES AT THE EXPENSE OF OTHER IMPORTANT FACTORS, SUCH AS THE NATURE OF THE UN ROLE. WE BELIEVE THAT THE PROPOSITION CAN BE BETTER PUT AS FOLLOWS: "THAT ANY INCLUSION OF INDIVIDUALS WHO PARTICIPATED IN TURNHALLE MUST NOT BE OF A NATURE SUCH AS TO SUGGEST ANY POSSIBILITY THAT THE ADMINISTRATION OR THE ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL CAN IN ANY WAY PREJUDICE OR APPEAR TO PREJUDICE THE OUTCOME OF THE POLITICAL PROCESS."

D. PARA 9(A), LAST SENTENCE, IS ACCURATE AS FAR AS
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IT GOES. HOWEVER, WE HAVE DIFFICULTY WITH THE CONVERSE OF THE PROPOSITION IMPLICIT IN THAT SENTENCE. THUS, WE DO NOT THINK IT IS A GOOD IDEA TO IMPLY THAT THE ABSENCE IN WHOLE OR IN PART OF INDIVIDUALS ASSOCIATED WITH TURNHALLE WOULD THEREBY NECESSARILY CALL FOR A DECREASE IN POWERS ASSIGNED OR IN EXTERNAL INSTITUTIONAL SAFEGUARDS SUCH AS A UN PRESENCE. WE SIMPLY DO NOT KNOW ENOUGH ABOUT THE POTENTIAL SITUATION, THE PATTERN OF SOUTH AFRICAN PHASE-OUT, OR THE ATTITUDES OF OTHER PARTIES, TO LEAVE SUCH AN IMPLICATION. WE PREFER THE SENTENCE BE REWORDED AS FOLLOWS: "THE NATURE OF THE TRANSITIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS WILL IN PART DETERMINE THE EXTENT OF EXTERNAL INSTITUTIONAL SAFEGUARDS SUCH AS A UN PRESENCE."

E. WE BELIEVE THAT THE POINTS IN PARA 9 ARE SUFFICIENTLY IMPORTANT AND GENERALLY APPLICABLE THAT THEY SHOULD BE STATED IN SOME FASHION EARLIER IN THE PAPER UNDER "SPECIFIC CONSIDERATIONS."

F. IN SECTION 9(B), WE BELIEVE THE PHRASE "IN CONSULTATION WITH UN REPRESENTATIVES" IS TOO WEAK, AT LEAST FOR NEGOTIATING PURPOSES WITH SOUTH AFRICA. WE WOULD PREFER SOMETHING SUCH AS "IN CONSULTATION WITH THE UN REPRESENTATIVE, AND TO HIS SATISFACTION."

G. SECTION C(3) (THE RANGE OF UN ACTIVITIES), DOES NOT SUFFICIENTLY COVER THE POTENTIAL RANGE OF UN ACTIVITIES, AS FAR AS WE ARE CONCERNED. FOR EXAMPLE, IT DOES NOT MENTION THE POSSIBLE CIVIL, POLICE AND PEACEKEEPING ACTIVITIES (WHICH WALDHEIM MENTIONED, USUN 1756) WHICH THE UN MIGHT HAVE TO UNDERTAKE

DEPENDING UPON THE NATURE AND TIMING OF SOUTH AFRICA'S WITHDRAWAL. THIS POINT SHOULD BE MADE TO THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE CONTACT GROUP. IN ADDITION, WE BELIEVE CONFIDENTIAL

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THAT THE PRESENT TEXT IS TOO EXPLICIT ON CERTAIN POINTS, FOR EXAMPLE:

(1) IN SECTION C, 3(C), SECOND SENTENCE, DESPITE THE PHRASE "AT LEAST," WE BELIEVE THAT THE SUGGESTION IS MISLEADING IN THAT IT COULD LEAD TO THE CONCLUSION THAT WE ARE PREPARED TO SEE THE UN DEPART BEFORE INDEPENDENCE. WE WOULD PREFER THE SENTENCE TO READ "THE UN PRESENCE PRESUMABLY WOULD CONTINUE UNTIL INDEPENDENCE."

(2) IN THE ABSENCE OF A MUCH BETTER APPRECIATION OF THE TASKS THE UN WILL HAVE TO PERFORM, WE BELIEVE IT IS A MISTAKE TO SPECIFY, EVEN GENERALLY, THE NUMBER OF UN PERSONNEL WHICH MIGHT BE INVOLVED, AS IS DONE IN SECTION C 3(D). WE SUGGEST THAT "SEVERAL HUNDREDS OF PERSONS" BE CHANGED TO "A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF PERSONS."

(3) FOR THE SAME REASON, WE BELIEVE IT UNNECESSARY TO DESCRIBE THE "PRINCIPAL FUNCTIONS OF THE UN PRESENCE" AS IS DONE IN SECTION C, 3(F). WE WOULD HAVE LESS PROBLEM WITH THIS SECTION IF IT WERE IDENTIFIED AS THE "PRINCIPAL FUNCTIONS OF THE UN ELECTORAL PRESENCE," AND THUS DID NOT SUGGEST THAT IT WOULD BE THE SUM TOTAL OF THE UN PRESENCE.

H. BECAUSE OF PRESENTATION TO BE MADE TO ZAMBIA AND TANZANIA REGARDING POLITICAL PRISONERS (USUN 1758), PENULTIMATE SENTENCE IN SECTION B (RELEASE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS) SHOULD BE CHANGED TO READ: "... WHETHER

HELD BY SOUTH AFRICA, TANZANIA OR ZAMBIA AND THEY
HAVE MADE THIS POINT WITH OTHER RELEVANT GOVERNMENTS."

CHRISTOPHER

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